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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, NOVEMBER 1-3: WAR ON
TERROR; MADRID DONORS CONFERENCE; INFILTRATION OF FOREIGN
FIGHTERS; PD EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF US POSITION

[1](#)1. SUMMARY: A prominent liberal commentator states that the government refuses to admit that "Al-Qaeda exists in Kuwait" so as to not irritate Kuwait's Islamist groups in parliament. Another states that the only way for liberals to confront "extremist religious interpretations" is with a "modernist religious ideology" that embraces democracy and human rights.

A liberal writer opines that despite the "American failure to understand other cultures," the US has taken "great steps to build cultural bridges with the Arab world" after Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The debate on Kuwait's contributions to Iraqi reconstruction continues on the editorial pages, with one commentator saying the money would be better spent in "building up Kuwait's new areas." END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. News Stories: Liberal MP Mohammad Al-Saqer will lead a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation to an emergency session of the Arab Parliamentary Union Council in Syria on November 2 to discuss "the Israeli aggression on Syria and the 'Syria Accountability' Act," Al-Qabas reports.

Al-Qabas reports that Iraqi Kurdish leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Jallal Talebani met with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad during an official visit this week in which he affirmed the strength of Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations.

Chairman of the Board of the Social Reform Society Abdulla Al-Mutawa stated: "I challenge any one to prove that a single Kuwaiti Dinar from a Kuwaiti charity has been sent to terrorists," according to Al-Qabas.

All newspapers report that the Kuwaiti Gulf Center for Strategic Studies issued a study about Kuwait's democracy, concluding that it is "transparent and fair" despite widespread allegations of vote-buying during the July 2003 parliamentary elections.

Al-Qabas reports that National Assembly Speaker Jassim Al-Kharafi stated that discussion of the challenges facing the Kuwaiti educational system is on the agenda for the next session of the parliament.

Al-Qabas reports that Ministry of Education plans to introduce computers and Internet to the curricula are limited by the fact that over 90% of the ministry's budget is dedicated to salaries.

Al-Watan and Al-Qabas report on November 1 that Kuwaiti security authorities disrupted an attempt to smuggle over 1800 bottles of whiskey from Iraq into Kuwait.

Editorials:

[1](#)3. "Political Distortion and the Security of Kuwait"
Secretary General of the National Democratic Movement Dr.

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Ahmad Bishara wrote in independent Al-Qabas (11/01): "Our MPs have made a mistake in opposing contributions to Iraq [for reconstruction]. Kuwait has bet on its future, the future of Iraq and the region. We should not allow the rabble-rousers in the Parliament to harm Kuwait and its efforts to build new relations with the people of Iraq."

[1](#)4. "Precedence Should Be Given to Building Kuwait"
Faisal Al-Barjes wrote in independent Al-Qabas (11/01): "Isn't it a priority for us to use a fraction of [the USD 1.5 billion pledged by Kuwait for the reconstruction of Iraq] for rebuilding the infrastructure of the new areas in Kuwait? Shouldn't we use this amount to rebuild our hospitals or to find new jobs for our Kuwaiti graduates? We

must tell the powers abroad that have been applying pressure that Kuwait and its people have a priority to spend their wealth."

15. "Kuwait Mujahedeen in Iraq"

Director of Kuwait University's Center for Future and Strategic Studies, Dr. Shamlan Al-Essa wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (11/01): "Despite the fact that we in Kuwait have witnessed terrorist attacks on American soldiers, politicians here still deny the existence of Al-Qaeda [in Kuwait] in order to satisfy the political Islamic groups in Kuwait. The most serious consequences of Kuwaitis joining the Islamic Jihad cells in Iraq is that we will end up with Iraqi-Kuwaiti Mujahedeen, expert in planting bombs on roads and blowing up oil pipelines, here in Kuwait after they accomplish their mission in Iraq."

16. "America's War on Terrorism Begins At the Gates of Freedom"

Liberal Dean of the College of Social Sciences at Kuwait University, Dr. Ali Al-Tarrah wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (11/02): "Despite the humanitarian work offered by the US to the rest of the world, it remains the most vulnerable country to terrorist attacks and the most hated by Muslims. This is because America fails to understand the nature of other cultures. After the war on Iraq, the US began to review its policies and presented solutions for its disordered cultural relations with the Islamic world. The US has taken great steps at the appropriate time to build cultural bridges with the Arab and Islamic world. America must work to bring the region out of this dark tunnel and should not pay any attention to the voices which claim that this region is not qualified for democracy."

7. "The Kuwaiti Liberal Ideology and the Necessity to Reform Religion"

Fakher Al-Sultan wrote in independent Al-Watan (11/01): "If liberals in Kuwait adopt enlightened Islam-- Islam based on visions that do not contradict democracy, respect for human rights, and intellectual and religious diversity-- this will pave the way to confronting the extreme religious interpretation of the political Islam groups who dominate political and religious life in Kuwait. The position in the society held by fundamentalist ideology cannot be shaken unless it is confronted with another religious ideology... a modernist religious ideology that embraces liberalism, democracy, and respect for human rights as concepts that do not clash with religion, but are in accordance with it."

18. "Execution is the Solution"

Faisal Al-Qanai wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (11/02): "Bombings in Iraq are terrorist attacks that only create suffering for the Iraqi people. Arab people and countries must support the Iraqi people and reject such acts because stability and democracy are the only ways to achieve a prosperous Iraq. The first step that must be taken to control the situation in Iraq is to implement the death penalty for criminals and violators of national security."

19. "Beware of Judaization in Iraq"

Dr. Ayed Al-Manna wrote in independent Al-Watan (11/02): "There is no doubt that there are Jews who entered Iraq to buy some properties there. The issue of Judaization of large geographic areas and the control of economic and financial institutions in Iraq is a serious matter. Allowing the Jews, especially Israeli Jews, to exploit the needy Iraqis by buying their property is a violation of Iraq's sovereignty. We hope that Paul Bremmer will ban the entry of Israeli Jews to Iraq because this would be as harmful to the Americans as to the Iraqis."

JONES